

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05682 271658Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2473

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5682

EXDIS

KINSHASA FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON WITH SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EG

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT: ENCOURAGING DONOR PARTICIPATION

REF: STATE 093488

1. IN THE COURSE OF MY MEETING WITH PRIMIN MAMDUH SALEM, APRIL 24, I RAISED WITH HIM THE IDEA OF EXPANDED DONOR ASSISTANCE. I DEBATED WHETHER TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH HIM OR FAHMY, BUT DECIDED UPON REFLECTION THAT IF THE IDEA IS TO MAKE ANY HEADWAY, PRIMIN WILL HAVE TO ENDORSE IT. THERE IS AN UNDERCURRENT OF TENSION BETWEEN SALEM AND FAHMY WITH THE PRIMIN SEIZING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HE, NOT FAHMY, IS IN CHARGE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. I INTEND LATER ALSO TO TELL FAHMY ABOUT THE IDEA.

2. IN RAISING THE MATTER WITH PRIMIN, I POINTED OUT OUR BELIEF THAT THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF BROADER WESTERN SUPPORT FOR SADAT AT THIS TIME WOULD BE POSITIVE EVEN IF THE ACTUAL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED IS NOT THAT GREAT. IN THIS CONNECTION I NOTED THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED EGYPTIAN-DANISH AGREEMENT (CAIRO 5586) AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF THING WE
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 05682 271658Z

HAD IN MIND. IF THAT COULD BE REPLICATED WITH, SAY,

NORWAY, SWEDEN, HOLLAND, BELGIUM, SWITZERLAND, PERHAPS
BRAZIL AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, IT WOULD
REPRESENT DEMONSTRABLE SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S MODERATE
POLICIES. IF PRIMIN CONSIDERED THAT THE IDEA HAS
MERIT, WE WONDERED IF GOE WOULD TAKE THE LEAD. IF SO,
WE WOULD BE WILLING TO SUPPORT WUCH AN EFFORT, BUT
BELIEVE THAT IT MIGHT TACTICALLY BE WISE TO WAIT
FOR THE CONCLUSION OF AN IMF AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT.

3. WHILE I WOULD HARDLY DESCRIBE SALEM AS GREATLY
EXCITED ABOUT THE IDEA, HE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A
USEFUL THING TO PURSUE. HE NOTED THAT, IN ADDITION
TO DENMARK, EGYPT HAS MODEST ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENT
WITH VARIOUS OTHER EUROPEAN STATES. PERHAPS THESE
MIGHT BE PUBLICIZED OR UP DATED. HE AGREED RE
DESIRABILITY OF AWAITING AN IMF AGREEMENT BEFORE
MAKING ANY SUCH APPROACHES AND SAID HE WOULD IN ANY
CASE WANT TO THINK A BIT MORE ABOUT WHO MIGHT BE
APPROACHED.

4. WE LEFT IT THAT THE SUBJECT MIGHT AGAIN BE RAISED
DURING THE ROBINSON VISIT.
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